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Message Text

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61
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 091625Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6888
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV GR
SUBJECT: PROFILE OF GREEK PARLIAMENT ELECTED NOV 17, 1974

1. SUMMARY: GREEK PARLIAMENT OF 1974 IS SLIGHTLY YOUNGER, HAS MORE WOMEN AND FEWER LAWYERS AND FORMER DEPUTIES THAN ANY IN RECENT HISTORY. 61PC OF DEPUTIES ARE FIRST TIMERS AND OVERALL AVERAGE AGE IS (FOR GREECE) A YOUNGISH 52. PROFESSIONS VARY FROM LAWYERS WHO COMPRISE NEARLY 50PC OF MEMBERSHIP TO NINE EX-MILITARY OFFICERS AND ONE WELL KNOWN STAGE ACTRESS.
END SUMMARY.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON DEPUTIES ELECTED NOV 17, 1974 INCOMPLETE BUT AVAILABLE RECORDS OF 90PC OF MEMBERS OF NEW PARLIAMENT PERMIT SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS. OF TOTAL OF 300 DEPUTIES ELECTED SIX ARE WOMEN, INCLUDING ONE ACTRESS AND ONE HOUSEWIFE. 49PC OF DEPUTIES ARE LAWYERS WHICH, ALTHOUGH HIGH, IS LESS THAN PREVIOUS PARLIAMENTS; 12PC ARE PHYSICIANS ALONG WITH TWO DENTISTS, ONE PHARMACISTAND ONE VETERINARIAN. 9PC HAVE HAD ENGINEERING CAREERS, FIVE PERCENT ARE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER ARE JOURNALISTS. ONLY 9 DEPUTIES ARE FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS.
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SEVERAL LIST THEIR PROFESSION AS FARMERS AND ONLY EIGHT STATE

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THEY ARE BUSINESSMEN.

3. NEW FACES IN PARLIAMENT TOTAL OVER 60PC INCLUDING ABOUT 5PC REPRESENTING FORMERLY UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES. ND CLAIMS 62PC OF ITS CONTINGENT ELECTED FOR FIRST TIME; SAME FIGURE FOR CU/NF IS 57PC; OF PASOK'S 12 DEPUTIES ONLY 45PC ARE FIRST TIMERS; AND UNITED LEFT HAS 62PC (FIVE OF ITS EIGHT DEPUTIES) IN THIS CATEGORY. DEPUTIES AVERAGE AGE IS 51.35 YEARS WHICH VARIES LITTLE AMONG PARTIES. WOMEN DEPUTIES AVERAGE AGE IS 54.5. ATHENS SUBURB AREA INCLUDES YOUNGEST DEPUTY CONSTITUENCY WITH MEAN AGE AT 44.76 AND THESSALONIKI SHOWS MAXIMUM AVERAGE AGE OF 57.46. SEVEN DEPUTIES ARE 30 YEARS OF AGE, 45 UNDER 40, 60 UNDER 50, 74 UNDER 60 AND 59 WHO ARE 60 PLUS. THE OLDEST DEPUTIES ARE NEW DEMOCRACY'S CONSTANTINE TSATSOS AND IOANNIS KONTOVRAKIS, BOTH VENERABLE 75.

3. COMMENT: EXTRAPOLATION FROM BIOGRAPHIC STATISTICS SUGGESTS THAT 1974 PARLIAMENT IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF 1967. MANY FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTDIED DURING TEN YEAR HIATUS, LOST HEALTH OR FOUND NEW CAREERS. AT SAME TIME MANY ASPIRING YOUNG POLITICIANS WAITING IN THE WINGS IN THE MID-60'S LOST THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE THEIR CANDIDACIES, AND EITHER SHIFTED CAREERS OR RAN IN 1974 AS MIDDLE-AGED MEN. WITH OVER 60PC OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT CONSISTING OF MEN AND WOMEN (IN FACT ALL WOMEN DEPUTIES ARE FIRST TIMERS) WITH NO FORMER PARLIAMENTARY EXPERIENCE, WE ANTICIPATE SOMETHING OF NEW LOOK IN GREEK LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.
STEARNS

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